



# GHOSTRIDER GAZETTE

Golf Battery, 1-79 Field Artillery

Class 13-09, 23JAN09, Week 6



Dear Family Member,

This has been a great week of outdoor training for your Soldiers. After celebrating the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday, your Soldiers conducted land navigation practical exercise, negotiated the confidence obstacle course, were fitted for their Class A and new Army Physical Training uniforms and finished up the week with conducting our first 10 kilometer road march and rifle-bayonet training. The weather here has been warming up and allowing us to complete training requirements in a great training environment.

The land navigation practical exercise builds upon the land navigation classroom skills that your Soldiers were taught last Saturday (17JAN09). There they learned the fundamentals of map reading, terrain feature identification and association, and how to navigate dismounted (on foot) from one point to another. Your Soldiers went to the Potato Hill land navigation course which is a fairly large course, approximately 3 kilometers square. There they were put in to squad sized groups (10-12 Soldiers), and were given a map, compass and a test sheet of 5 grid locations for them to find in a 3 hour time-frame. The Soldiers also verified their pace –count for a 100 meter distance (i.e. 70 paces per 100 meters – depending on the Soldier's stride. The Soldiers were given 15 minutes to plot their points and determine their route, and then began finding the points as a group using their pace count and compass to determine an azimuth (direction) to move towards. This was great training and taught the invaluable skills of land navigation which is crucial to moving during military operations.

The Soldiers then completed the confidence obstacle course (COC) on 21JAN09. This course tests their physical stamina and reinforces the Army Value of Personal Courage which is required to negotiate physical obstacles. Initially the platoons (~64 Soldiers) were placed on the 3 most challenging high obstacles. Under the supervision of drill sergeant safeties, the Soldiers conducted an inverted rope descent in which they climb a 30 foot tower and slide hand-over-hand down a rope using their arms and legs to hold onto the rope. Another challenging obstacle they negotiated is called the "Tough One"; here the Soldiers climb a 12 foot rope, walk across beams to another 20-foot "A-frame" type ladder and climb down the opposite 30-foot cargo net. The final large obstacle was the confidence climb; here your Soldiers climb and descend a 30 foot obstacle that consisted of a series of poles that are between 3 and 5 feet apart. They showed great motivation and teamwork throughout the course and encouraged each other all the way!

We finished this week up by completing a 10 Kilometer tactical march in route to rifle bayonet training. We taught them how to attach and detach a bayonet from their weapon as well as offensive and defensive rifle/bayonet combat techniques. After running a quarter mile bayonet assault course we then practiced on each other using pugil sticks. We then had a battery competition to determine the overall pugil stick champions!

The graduation letter and information packet has been sent out via U.S. Mail by self-addressed envelopes from your Soldiers. There is also a digital copy of packet included with this E-letter. The packet includes the graduation letter, area hotel/motel and transportation information, maps, a schedule of events, and a vehicle pass. Family day activities will begin Wednesday, 18 February 2009 at 09:30 a.m. in the Battery area. Graduation is Thursday, 19 February at 1:00 p.m. at McMahon Auditorium. If you are looking for hotels in the local area you can also use the following link: [http://www.2chambers.com/lawton\\_oklahoma.htm](http://www.2chambers.com/lawton_oklahoma.htm).

I continue to encourage you to write to your Soldiers and they are still receiving great letters and mail; a little bit of encouragement from home goes a long way! Letters are fine, but do not send packages that contain contraband (magazines, food, electronics, candy, soda, tobacco, pornography etc.). Again their address is: (Line 1) **Soldiers' name (Line 2) Golf Battery, 1-79 FA, PLT #\_\_\_ (Line 3) 5001 North Rothwell Rd (Line 4) Fort Sill, OK 73503.** If there is someone else that you know that would like to receive these updates please send me their email address. If you have questions pertaining to an emergency concerning your Soldier, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look

## Ghost Rider Soldier's In Action!





**Land Navigation / COC**



**Rifle-Bayonet Training**

